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ABSTRACT

The opportunity for religious freedom brought the Amish from Europe to North America as early as 1737. And for many generations, conflicts between the Amish and the U.S. government were limited to Amish objections to military service. However, as the government's regulatory power grew in the 20th century, clashes between the Amish and the state escalated dramatically. This book explores the unique series of conflicts between the Amish and the U.S. government during 1925-75. A separate chapter chronicles the interactions between the Amish and Canadian officials. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the Old Order Amish as well as a conceptual framework for interpreting the confrontations ensuing between the Amish and the state. Chapters 2-10 focus on the Amish view of the state and on areas of conflict over military service and conscription, Social Security and taxes, education, health care, land use and zoning, and regulation of slow-moving vehicles. The chapter on education traces the many conflicts leading to the Supreme Court ruling in support of the claim that compulsory schooling after the eighth grade endangered Amish religious freedom. This ruling granted Amish parents the right to refuse to send their children to high school. This chapter also explains how compulsory public education conflicts with Amish religious beliefs. The last two chapters assess the role and influence of sympathetic outsiders in many of the legal battles and the role of the Amish in preserving religious liberty in the United States. Chapters include: (1) "Negotiating with Caesar" (Donald B. Kraybill); (2) "The Amish View of the State" (Paton Yoder); (3) "Military Service and Conscription" (Albert N. Keim); (4) "The National Amish Steering Committee" (Marc A. Olshan); (5) "Education and Schooling" (Thomas J. Meyers); (6) "The National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom" (William C. Lindholm); (7) "Social Security and Taxes" (Peter J. Ferrara); (8) "Slow-Moving Vehicles" (Lee J. Zook); (9) "Health Care" (Gertrude Enders Huntington); (10) "Land Use" (Elizabeth Place); (11) "The Role of

Outsiders" (Robert L. Kidder); (12) "Canadian Government Relations" (Dennis L. Thomson); and (13) "First Amendment Issues" (William B. Ball). The appendix briefly describes 34 legal cases referenced in the text. Contains 280 references and an index. (Author/LP)

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